

SEPTEMBER 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS PETERSEN

Dear Spring Ridge Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! It is hard to believe that we already have 2 weeks under our belt! Students have transitioned well from summer break to the start of a brand new school year. Thank you for your help in making this transition go very smoothly!

On behalf of the students and teachers, I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our PTO for decorating the school campus for our first day, assisting the teachers with classroom materials, and making Open House a success. Thank you for your support in making Spring Ridge Elementary a great place to learn.

Our school theme this year is "Plant Seeds of Kindness"! We know that through strong teamwork between parents, staff, and community members, we can ensure that each child will reach their individual potential academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your commitment to this teamwork!

This year Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held in September again. We are scheduling PT Conferences just as we have the last couple of years, by using an on-line conference scheduler called Pick-A-Time. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be on Tuesday, September 24th and Wednesday, September 25th from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. each evening. Directions will be sent home with your child on Friday, September 6th, so you know how to proceed with scheduling your child's time. This is a first-come first-serve scheduling software. The on-line scheduler will open up at [10:00 a.m.](#) on Monday, September 9, 2023 and will close at 11:59p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2023. As a result, the sooner you register the more likely you are to get your preferred time. In addition, if you have more than one student, it will not allow you to schedule them back-to-back. The one exception is if you have children who have the same teacher. It will require a fifteen-minute time slot between the two conferences. This allows for travel time and for conferences that have gotten behind schedule. Once you begin the process, if you have questions please feel free to contact the office (402-637-0204) or your child's teacher.

Please know that throughout the school year my door is always open. Never hesitate to set up a time to meet with me. You can also email me at [lpetersen@epsne.org](mailto:lpetersen@epsne.org) or you can call me at 402-637-0204. Thank you again for a great start to this school year!

*Laurinda Petersen*

Spring Ridge Principal



## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

### September

- September 2 - Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- September 6 - Spring Ridge Fun Run (Each class is assigned a time slot during the school day.)
- September 11 - School Picture Day
- September 20 - 2nd Grade Field Trip to Arbor Day Farm
- September 23-25 - Book Fair
- September 24 & 25- Parent/Teacher Conferences; Early Dismissal 2:06 PM - Mid Quarters are given to parents at Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- September 26 - NO SCHOOL- Teacher In-Service
- September 27 - NO SCHOOL



### **No Dogs on School Grounds**



Just a reminder that dogs are not allowed on school grounds when school is in session. Even the most well-mannered dogs, when surrounded by little hands and loud voices of children, may react in a way that we would not expect. In addition, some of our children are allergic to dogs. Thank you for your help with this!



## Traffic Reminders:



It's no secret that Spring Ridge Elementary is not the easiest to navigate when dropping and picking up children. Even veteran Spring Ridge parents find it easy to forget the specifics of daily drop-off and pick-up. The utmost priority is the safety of our children. One accident at the school is one too many.

Here are a few basic reminders:

### Morning Drop-off Procedures –

1. Students may be dropped off curbside between the designated orange cones at the front of the building. Always enter the drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). Keep moving forward as far as possible. Please stop only once between the orange cones.
2. Students may be dropped off along the west curb of 178th Street. Note 178th Street is a one-way north between the hours of 7:00 A.M.-9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M. Students may use the sidewalks along the staff parking lot or the sidewalk along the front of the building to bring them to the appropriate entrance. Please do not use the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up students.

### Afternoon Pick-up Procedures:

1. Students are to be picked up curbside at the front entrance of the building. Always enter the front drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). Keep moving forward as far as possible, picking up children between designated cones. Please do not use the drive-through lane for picking up children. Students are not allowed to walk through traffic. Please do not leave your car unattended if you are parked curbside as this disrupts the flow of traffic.
2. Students may be picked up along the west curb of 178th Street.

Please do not park in front of a safety crosswalk. This places our safety patrol students in a dangerous position. The parked cars can obstruct the view of on-coming traffic. Thank you!





## Helpful Reminders:

The beginning of the school year is a great time to remind students and parents about general procedures followed at school each day. These will help ensure a successful day and year for children, families, and teachers. Thank you!

- Look through your child's backpack and go over the items sent home each day with your child.
- Help your child remember to return papers as they are due.
- Help your child arrive to school on time.
- Call the office 402-637-0204 each day your child will be tardy or absent.
- Sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge every time you are in the building.
- Deliver forgotten items to the office, not the classroom.
- Send a note with your child if he/she is doing something different after school (car-pooling instead of walking, etc.)
- Come into the office to sign your student out during the day.



## Meeting with Teachers:



Parents wishing to confer with teachers are asked to call the school office or e-mail the teacher. If the teacher is unable to take your call, we will gladly leave them a message to return your call at their earliest convenience.

If wishing to meet in person with a teacher, please schedule an appointment in advance. Often, teachers feel bad when a parent arrives at school to confer with them and they cannot meet with that parent due to other demands and responsibilities placed upon them. By scheduling an appointment they will be prepared to meet with you to address your questions and/or concerns.

## Please sign in at the Office:

All visitors (including parents) who enter the building must sign in at the office. This procedure is in place as a part of our safety plan. We encourage you to have your children walk to their classrooms themselves after you drop them off in the morning. It instills a sense of independence for them.





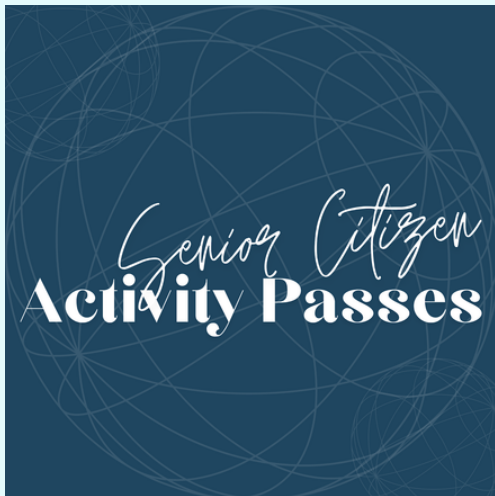
## **Plan to Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences September 24 and 25:**

Tuesday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 25, Spring Ridge Elementary will be conducting parent-teacher conferences. The parent-teacher conference is a unique opportunity to gain a fresh perspective on your child's progress in school and to share your parental insights with the teacher. You will want to use this limited time to its best advantage. Sharing information about your child with his/her teacher will enable us to provide a learning program that will best meet the needs of your child. We hope that the conferences are productive and provide you with a true understanding of the progress your child is making in the classroom.

Directions will be sent home with students on Friday, September 6th regarding how to schedule your PT Conference Time for your child through the Pick-A-Time website/tool. If you have questions, please contact the Spring Ridge Office at 402-637-0204.

Our Spring Ridge PTO would like to produce a Student Directory so that all families can easily connect with each other. Given that, our school will provide the PTO with the following household information for each student: email, phone number, and mailing address. If you would prefer not to have your contact information included in the Student Directory, please email us at [lpetersen@epsne.org](mailto:lpetersen@epsne.org) by Monday, September 9 to let us know of your decision to opt out.

We understand the importance of privacy, and we respect your choice in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.



## Technology and Social Media Resources

### EPS Senior Citizen Activity Passes

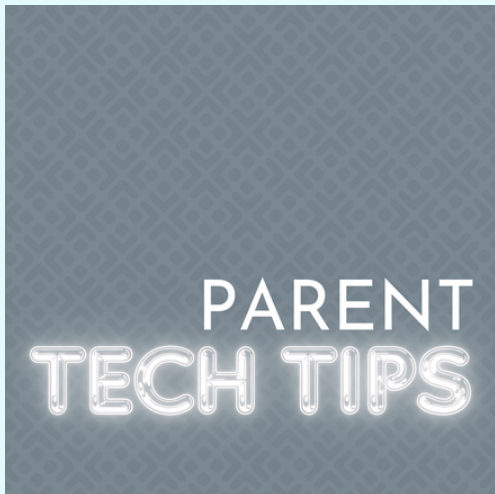
Per EPS Board Policy 1006.07, District residents aged 65+ are eligible for a free activity pass which admits the holder to District-sponsored events and activities. Passes can be picked up at the EPS Central Office at 20650 Glenn St. during normal business hours. Individuals must provide a valid driver's license showing a current address of residence with EPS boundaries to receive a pass.

## Severe Weather Protocols

As was shared with all families in an email from Elkhorn Public Schools in early August, information regarding the resources utilized by Elkhorn Public Schools in the event of severe weather can be found at the link below.

[EPS Severe Weather Protocols - August 2024 Letter to Staff and Families](#)





### **Tech Tips for Parents: Screen Sanity**

Let's flip the script - creating a sense of "JOMO" (that's Joy of Missing Out) encourages students to be fully present and embrace being in the here and now! Check out [Screen Sanity](#) for more helpful tips and remember the importance of modeling being where your feet are!

### **TeamMates of Elkhorn Information**

TeamMates of Elkhorn is currently seeking additional mentors to fulfill our waitlist! Mentors spend 30 minutes a week building a lasting relationship and creating a positive impact that lasts a lifetime. Please consider volunteering your time to meet the growing need for mentors across our District. Apply now by clicking [here](#)!

Additionally, visit Runza on Tuesday, September 19, and support your local chapter of TeamMates! 10% of all Runza sales at the 204th and Maple location will be donated back to our Elkhorn chapter.

A red rectangular graphic with the text 'TEAMMATES' in large, bold, black, uppercase letters. Below it, the text 'MENTORING of ELKHORN' is written in smaller, black, uppercase letters. The 'of' is in a smaller font size and lowercase.





## **GOOGLE CLASSROOM GUARDIAN EMAIL SUMMARIES**

Starting September 6th, guardians will be able to receive email summaries about their student's activity in Google Classroom. Guardians will receive an email invitation on September 6th and will need to accept the invitation in order to receive Google Classroom email summaries. When you receive the invite email and click the accept button, you will be taken to a page verifying your email address. Please make sure this is the email address you would like to use before clicking accept. If it is not the correct email address, do NOT click decline or accept, and see bullet number 3 under "Get email summaries" in this document [Guardian Email Summaries - for Guardians](#).

You may not receive an invite email if you are still signed up from last year or if teacher(s) have not enabled email notifications in their Google Classrooms.

In email summaries, you can review:

- Missing work—Work not turned in when the summary was sent
- Upcoming work—Work that is due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or that is due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails)
- Class activities—Announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers
- Email summaries do not include grades.

If there's no activity to report, or if a teacher turns off email notifications, you might not get an email summary.

Please see this document for more information [Guardian Email Summaries - for Guardians](#).



## Note from the Nurse... Welcome back to school!

My name is Elizabeth Page and I am the school nurse at Elkhorn South, Spring Ridge, and West Bay. I am in each building 2 half days per week. If you ever need to contact me, please feel free to email me at [epage@epsne.org](mailto:epage@epsne.org) with any questions or concerns. Here is some important information to review:

### ~Physical and Immunization Requirements~

Nebraska law requires that all students have a physical examination upon entry into school, at the seventh grade level, or when transferring from out-of-state. Upon entry and out of state students must also show **proof of a visual evaluation (to include testing for amblyopia, strabismus, internal and external eye health, and visual acuity)**. Lastly, immunization records must be submitted before attending classes for all students. Please visit this link: [Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations](#) to view specific vaccine requirements. ***If you have not turned in your Kindergarten or new out-of-state student's paperwork, please do so ASAP.***

### ~Medication Policy~

If your student requires any medication (over-the-counter and/or prescription) while at school, each medication must have a [Medication Authorization Form](#) signed by the parent and a physician before we can administer. All medications must not be expired and provided in the original packaging or container with a label. For prescription medications, please only provide a maximum of 30 day supply. All medication must be dropped off in the office by a parent or guardian. **Please do not send medication in your child's backpack.**

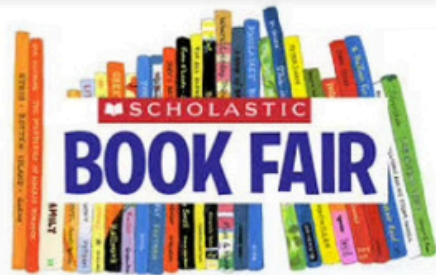
### ~Students with Asthma, Severe Allergies, Diabetes, and/or Seizures~

If your child has asthma, severe allergies, diabetes, and/or seizures, and you have not yet done so, please submit an [Action Plan](#) signed by both a parent and physician. ***Plans must be updated annually.***

### ~Sick Child Policy~

Just a reminder to monitor your child for symptoms of illness and to keep them home if they have any of the following: **fever >100.0, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, head lice, eye infection.**  
\*Students must be fever free without the use of fever reducing meds for 24 hours before returning to school.

Thank You! Elizabeth Page, RN, BSN  
[epage@epsne.org](mailto:epage@epsne.org)



The Spring Ridge Book Fair is just around the corner! Come join the fun and get some great books to help promote a strong school year of reading!

Monday, September 23: 3-4:30  
Tuesday, September 24: 2-6:30  
Wednesday, September 25: 2-6:30

Visit our webpage for more information and to set up your student's eWallet for cashless spending







## COUNSELING CORNER

September

### Parenting Pathways

Ever wonder why your kiddo has nothing to say after a whole day of activity in school? It's not that nothing happened worth talking about, it's more likely that the great questions you're asking just need to be asked a little later. Giving kiddos a chance to decompress after school before expecting them to tell us all about it is okay and necessary!

Here are some things to try before asking questions...

- I'm so glad to see you.
- You look like you worked hard today!
- I'm so proud of you.
- I'm so glad I am your \_\_\_\_\_ (Mom, Dad, etc.).
- Hi! (pair with a warm smile and a pause)
- Give a hug, fist bump or pat on the back

Later when they are ready, try some of these!

#### What to say to your kid instead of "how was school?"

<b>FEELINGS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did anything make you feel happy today?</li> <li>• Did anything make you feel sad today?</li> <li>• Tell me about one thing you did today that made you feel proud (and why).</li> </ul>
<b>FRIENDSHIPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who made you laugh today?</li> <li>• Who did you play with?</li> <li>• Is there someone you want to be friends with but aren't yet?</li> </ul>
<b>LEARNING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did you learn one new thing today?</li> <li>• Tell me about a story you read (and what you liked to read).</li> <li>• Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.</li> </ul>
<b>CLASSROOM DYNAMICS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What games did you play at recess?</li> <li>• What are you most looking forward to tomorrow?</li> <li>• Did you see anyone being kind/unkind today?</li> </ul>

### Try it!



**What:** Candle breathing is a visual way for kids to stop and take five controlled breaths.

**How:** Hold five fingers open in front of your mouth. Blow on each finger as if you were blowing out a candle and put the finger down. Repeat until all fingers are down.

### Cuddles & Covers

This is a great book to encourage kids to talk about their feelings and empowers them to take control.



### Character Trait of the

#### RESPECT

is seeing value in all people and things & treating them with care

Help your child to not only respecting adults, but also other peers and themselves. I also like to encourage them to respect spaces and items within them.





PurposeFULL People  
Character & Strong

## RESPECT

is seeing value  
in all people and things  
& treating them with care

PurposeFULL  
People

What are we learning in  
guidance?

- [Kindergarten](#)
- [1st Grade](#)
- [2nd Grade](#)
- [3rd Grade](#)
- [4th Grade](#)
- [5th Grade](#)





Spring Ridge PTO

SEPTEMBER 2024

## FUN RUN IS BACK!

Thank you to everyone who has already registered and donated for this year's Fun Run! We are trying to raise \$20,000 to for brand new playground equipment for both Spring Ridge playgrounds.

We have until September 6th to reach out goal and could really use your help!

MAGGIE BROCKMANN  
PRESIDENT

HANNAH WIEGER  
PRESIDENT-ELECT

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 09/02: NO SCHOOL: LABOR DAY
- 09/03: SPRING RIDGE SOCIAL: PANERA BREAD
- 09/06: SPRING RIDGE FUN RUN
- 09/11: SCHOOL PICTURE DAY
- 09/18-09/25: SCHOOL BOOK FAIR
- 09/24-09/25: PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 09/26: NO SCHOOL
- 09/27: NO SCHOOL

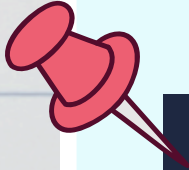
[WWW.MYBOOSTER.COM](http://WWW.MYBOOSTER.COM)



HELP SUPPORT US  
BUYING NEW  
PLAYGROUND  
EQUIPMENT!

SEPTEMBER 06, 2024





**SPRING RIDGE**

OFFICIAL ONLINE SHOP



**1ST PLACE**  
*Spiritwear*

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE



**30% OFF**  
**SITEWIDE!**

**FREE** SHIPPING  
ORDERS OVER **\$75**

**AUGUST 13TH - SEPTEMBER 17TH**

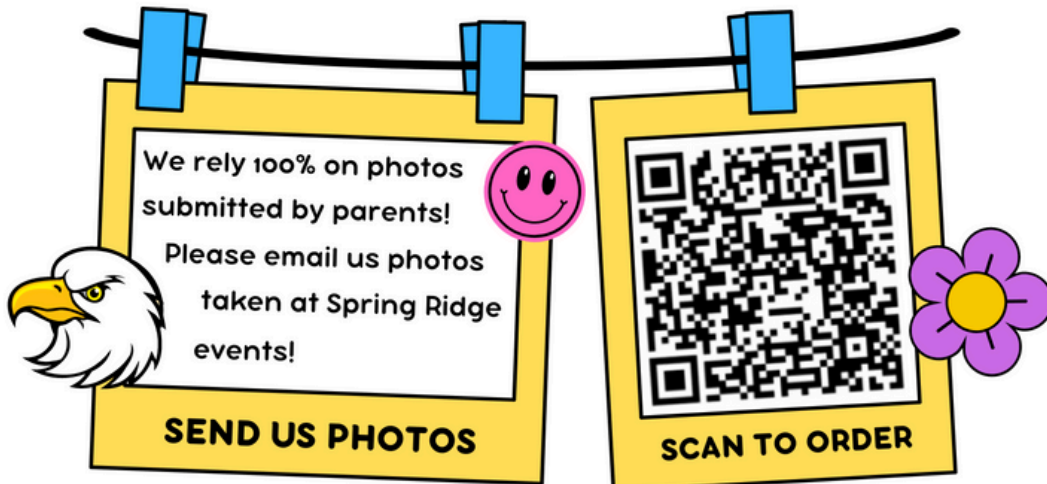
**ORDER AT: [1STPLACE.SALE/59681](https://1stplace.sale/59681)**



## ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK

**ORDER ONLINE AT [YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM](http://YEARBOOKFOREVER.COM)**

1. Search: Spring Ridge
2. Click "Buy a yearbook"  
Then "Next"
3. Enter Student info
  - Please include teacher name as it helps us ensure yearbooks are delivered to the right classroom at the end of the year.
4. Click Next to verify info then add to cart
  - Ordering for more than one student? Click "Keep Shopping"
5. Checkout
6. Check your email for an order confirmation from Walsworth



**Questions? [springridgeworkbook@gmail.com](mailto:springridgeworkbook@gmail.com)**





**Panera**  
FUNDRAISING



*Help support us!*

## **SPRING RIDGE PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION**

**25%**  
**OF SALES**  
**WILL BE**  
**DONATED**

**September 3, 2024**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**17730 W Center Rd, Omaha, NE**

Use code **FUND4U** at online checkout, in the Panera App,  
or at the kiosk in-café.\*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the café or enter the promo code **FUND4U** at checkout on [Panerabread.com](http://Panerabread.com) or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.\*\*

Learn more at [fundraising.panerabread.com](http://fundraising.panerabread.com)

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\*Gift card and catering order placed on [Panerabread.com](http://Panerabread.com), and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. \*\*Services vary by café.





# HOW TO REACH US

DON'T HESITATE TO ASK EVERYTHING ABOUT US!



**SPRING RIDGE PTO**



**CONTACT@SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM**



**WWW.SPRINGRIDGEPTO.COM**



**17830 SHADOW RIDGE DRIVE**

**MORE INFO:**

**SIGN-UP FOR PTO EMAILS!**



The Spring Ridge Review is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School, Elkhorn Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska.

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Muriel Manske  
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PTO Emails!

## LINKS



SPRING RIDGE  
SCHOOL DIRECTORY